

Toronto takes the place

Montreal loses 'premier city' status

By Stanley Meisler

MONTREAL (LAT) — It is not clear yet whether Montreal is turning into a big Milwaukee or a Rome, but it is clear that it no longer can be what it once was — the premier city of Canada.

In the 19th century, Montreal was powerful enough to compete with New York as the great port of North America. For the first half of this century, Montreal dominated Canada as the center of finance, commerce, transportation and manufacturing.

Montreal, the main city of the largely French-speaking province of Quebec, has the gift of two languages, though some Canadians might regard it as a curse.

The economic problems of Montreal were probably inevitable, but the tension of language has surely accelerated them.

So has the politics of separation. English speakers who controlled most of the economy of Montreal, correctly perceived the 1976 victory in Quebec of Premier Rene Levesque and his separatist government as an assault on their dominance.

economy.

All the talk about the loss of economic place and power, however, distorts the reality of Montreal. The city, with a population of 2.8 million in its metropolitan area, is far from moribund.

Even its lost power may contribute to its ease. "Montreal has all the comforts of a city past its prime," Milda Danys, a Montreal writer, said.

Much like a European city, Montreal has scores of cafes where a student of life can while away the night with coffee.

The Montreal businessmen, journalists Sheila McLeod Aronopoulos and Dominique Clift wrote in a recent book, "... carried with them the conviction that they were part of a vast English industrial, capitalist continent that they were part of a vast English industrial, capitalist continent while the French were marginal people with no economic, political or even cultural future."

a French look and that French speakers would attempt to wrest dominance of the city from the English speakers some day.

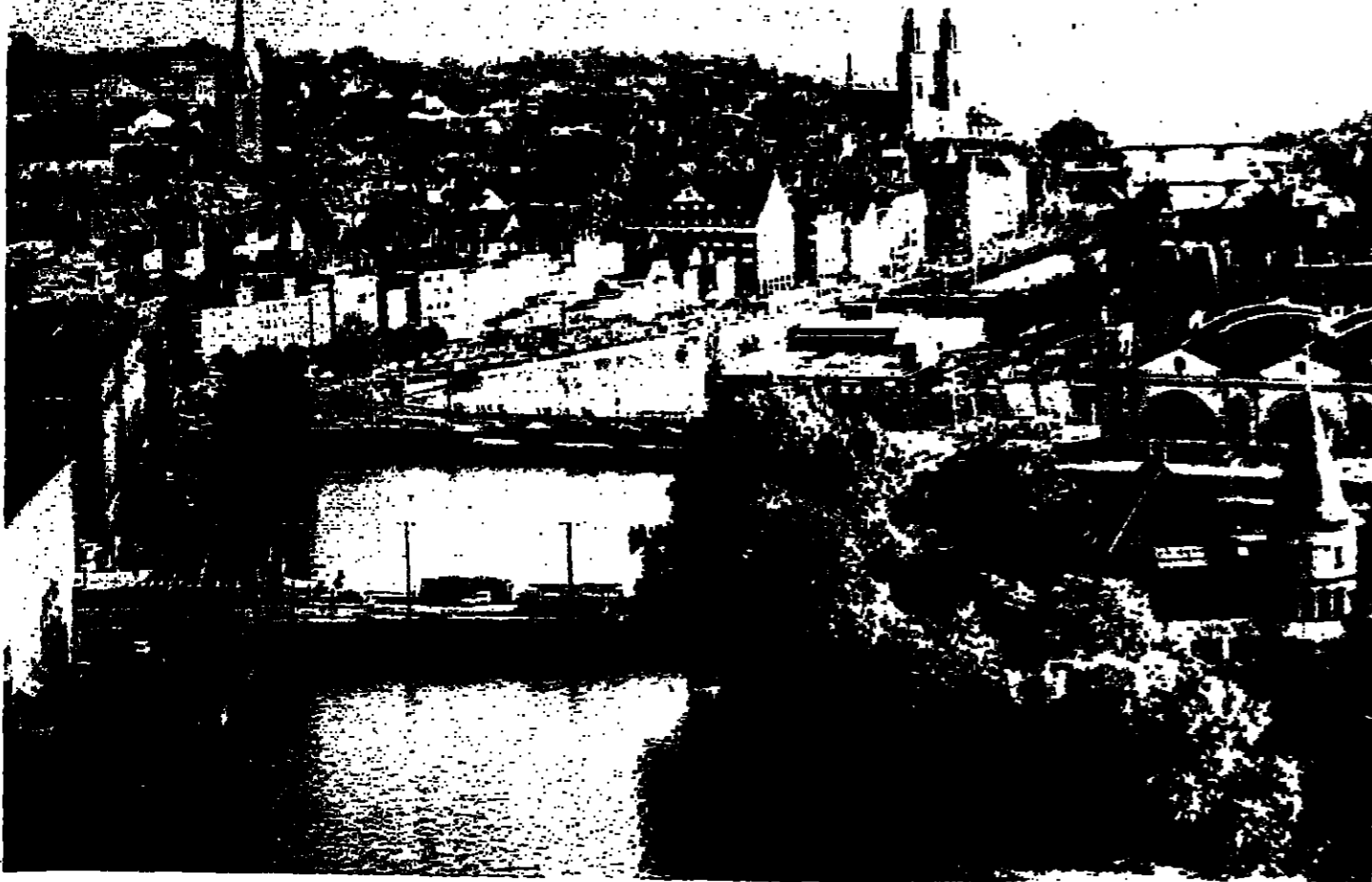
Levesque's instrument was Quebec's Charter of the French Language, better known in Montreal as Law 101. Enacted in 1977, this law, among numerous other provisions, requires businesses in the province to have their names and public signs in French only.

The language law, in fact, probably makes Montreal seem more French than it really is. According to the 1976 census, only 65 percent of the residents of Montreal were French speakers.

English speakers, in fact, still dominate the executive positions in the business world. The municipal government recently published a pamphlet with short statements from the presidents of the 25 leading corporations in Montreal.

Most English speakers are uncertain about their future. As Montreal takes on more of a French character, their opportunities diminish.

Montreal's decline as the economic and financial center of Canada began long before Rene Levesque and the revival of French nationalism in Quebec.



An aerial view of Zurich, Switzerland.

Youth unrest grips Zurich

By W. Joseph Campbell

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — This gracious, glittering city — the largest in Switzerland and one of the wealthiest in Europe — wears a badly distorted face.

Zurich clearly has suffered since May 30, 1980, when angry youths took violently to the street. The immediate provocation was the municipal government's plans to spend 62 million francs (\$29.7 million) to renovate the City Opera House.

The Zurich disturbances have been blamed for more than 5 million francs (\$2.5 million) in property damages, scores of injuries, more than 1,008 arrests, nearly 750 penal proceedings — staggering figures for a tiny country that values its reputation for stability and order.

There has been an uneasy, infrequently broken truce in Zurich since city authorities permitted the opening last April of the long-demanded "autonomous youth center," intended to be a "free space" for personal development through counterculture activities.

The young members of Zurich's curiously decentralized, nihilistic, heterogeneous, and "political" "Bewegung" (movement) say matter-of-factly that the opening of the center by no means signals an end to agitation or the demise of the movement.

"It's a new beginning," said a 27-year-old language tutor who frequents the center. "It will be the place for reunion for the movement, where we can meet and decide how to continue the fight."

Its restive youths have been described in the Swiss press as "a raging mob, blind with hatred" after one of the periodic clashes with police this spring.

There have been recent scattered instances of squatters occupying abandoned buildings in Zurich. Disenchanted youths have twice thrown up clapboard "settlement" — self-styled "slum towns" — in exclusive neighborhoods to underscore the housing squeeze.

The most comprehensive examination of Switzerland's youth unrest was conducted by Segond's commission. Segond said in a recent

interview that the study's major points remain pertinent, including its most provocative statement: "For the youths who demonstrate in the streets, violence is the expression of a desperate situation, and an expression of their distress...violence is not a goal in itself, but a means of expression."

The study warned against blaming an extreme minority. "The violence and the extremism are the consequences of an isolation from which a large number of people of all ages in our society suffer," the study said.

The commission said the root causes of unrest included: difficulties in finding jobs during a period of economic sluggishness and uncertainty, failings of the nuclear family to offer "sufficient possibilities for social development," and the restrictions and regulations imposed in modern life.

New training program for pilots

By a Science Correspondent

LONDON — A novel system is being tested in California that will greatly advance pilot training programs. The Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California, has designed an environmental chamber with simulated fog and rain.

The transparent chamber is positioned between the windshield of a simulator cockpit and a television monitor screen showing an image of the airport runway.

Egypt digs biggest water reservoir

By Jonathan Wright

THE NEW VALLEY, Egypt (R) — In its Saharan oases, where rain is unknown, Egypt is digging an underground reservoir of water the size of the state of Texas, in the same way as other Arab countries drill for oil.

The reservoir, covering an area of about 686,000 square kms was formed 25,000 years ago when rainwater drained off Central Africa's Tibesti mountains in Chad in a more humid age.

In the two main oases, Kharga and Dakhla, the Egyptian government's drive to turn the desert green has increased water production three-fold since 1960.

No one knows just how long it will last. Estimates by experts vary from 780 years to only 50 at high production levels.

pilot looking through the windshield sees a realistic view of the airport as it would actually appear through fog and rain.

The new chamber can reproduce fog halos like those seen around lights at night, optical distortions caused by raindrops, and "veiling luminance," the effect of fog appearing more dense when light is shining through it.

The mist can be cleared out of the chamber almost instantly, or its density can be increased or decreased abruptly to represent the conditions of a specified runway visual range from zero visibility to 30 miles.

The costs are high but with the country's population and food import bill both rising rapidly, land reclamation is apparently worth it.

Most of the new land will be on the edges of the overcrowded Nile Valley and delta where 41 million Egyptians occupy an area the size of the Netherlands.

Newvalley Governor Mahmoud Birnis believes his province can contribute a modest 6,000 hectares to the national target by the middle of this decade.

In the oases, that amount of land, supplied by deep wells with a life expectancy of only 15 years, will cost \$63 million to establish.

High rates of evaporation, the slight salinity of the water and shifting sand-dunes that swallow up carefully nurtured fields all add to the difficulties.

Once the wells are dug, the ground must be levelled, the soil leached of salt, drainage installed and trees planted as windbreaks.

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At U.N. conference

New French regime opposes apartheid

PARIS, May 25 (AP) — Claude Cheysson, the newly appointed minister of external relations in France's Socialist government, declared his solidarity and support Monday with all countries struggling against racism and apartheid in South Africa and Southwest Africa (Namibia).

"We salute those who have died and suffered and suffer still so that Africa can be free and that Africans can rediscover their dignity," Cheysson said in his first official speech since being named foreign minister three days ago. He spoke to delegates from more than 100 countries attending a special U.N. conference to develop and implement further economic sanctions against South Africa.

Rail line blown up in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, May 25 (R) — Black nationalists attacked a police station and blew up a railway line in separate incidents near South African cities Monday, police said. No one was hurt in the attacks apparently timed to coincide with Republic Day anniversary celebrations this week.

Police said the police station, about 10 kms from the Indian Ocean port of East London, was attacked with a hand grenade and rifle fire. The grenade was thrown through a window of the charge room which was empty at the time.

U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim also spoke out against the apartheid regime and its continuing refusal to negotiate independence for mineral-rich Namibia which Pretoria controls.

Cheysson, known as one of the Third World's closest friends in the West, was interrupted several times by applause. French President Francois Mitterrand is expected to take a much tougher line against trade and other economic cooperation with South Africa than did his predecessor Valery Giscard d'Estaing, under whose regime the Pretoria government became France's fifth largest trading partner.

"Tens of thousands of Europeans died in World War II because of racism," Cheysson said. "Never again and nowhere else can we allow people to be hated, humiliated and isolated because they are different."

Cheysson drew particularly loud applause when he told the delegates that the estimated two million African immigrants and their families in France would be allowed to stay and work because they are protected by the laws of the French Republic.

The special conference, convened under the auspices of the U.N. Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is expected to approve a list of wide-ranging economic sanctions against South Africa and say countries which refuse to abide by the boycott.

Ripper home attracts tourists

LONDON, May 25 (AP) — Hundreds of Sunday motorists drove to the Yorkshire town of Bradford to gaze at the home of Peter Sutcliffe, the 34-year-old truck driver who committed the Yorkshire Ripper murders.

Traffic police said they had to set up no-parking cones to keep the cars moving in Garden Lane in Heaton suburb, but the cones did not stop drivers leaving their cars briefly to photograph the house.

Some families said they drove 160 kms for the outing on the third day of the four-day spring holiday. Sutcliffe's wife Sonia was not at home and the house apparently was empty.

In Great Yarmouth on the Norfolk coast, Mayor Gordon Chapman protested over a figure of Sutcliffe placed in a local wax-works within hours of the end of his trial at London's Old Bailey Friday. The killer was jailed for life for murdering 13 women and trying to kill seven more from 1975 to 1980.

"I think it is in very bad taste for the town," Chapman said. Later the figure, shown behind bars brandishing a screwdriver like Sutcliffe's mutilation weapon, and with a woman victim lying in the background, was covered over.

Despite appeals from two lawmakers and families of victims there is to be no official public inquiry into how West Yorkshire police handled the five-year hunt for the Ripper in a triangle of northern England towns. Yorkshire lawmaker Martin Flannery said he thought it was "judicious" not to hold one, and his colleague Tom Torney said there must be no whitewash.

The Home Office, which controls the police and prisons, said no public inquiry is

planned but there will be two police inquiries, one by Sir James Crane, chief inspector of constabulary, and the other by Ronald Gregory, West Yorkshire chief constable.

The Home Office said that Crane's private report will be sent to all heads of the 43 regional police forces in England and Wales to see what can be learned from the man-hunt.

Police sources said Crane will examine accusations by the press and public that Ripper squad detectives were overwhelmed with paperwork and overlooked vital clues that could have nailed Sutcliffe earlier and prevented several murders. The police had his footprints and numerous reports of his car being sighted in red light districts, where he selected women for killing.

Both inquiries are expected to recommend introducing computers to replace traditional filing systems. Sutcliffe was interviewed nine times as a suspect before he finally was arrested over stolen auto plates. The police kept records of 21,000 interviews.

Press reports Monday said police plan to interview Sutcliffe in prison about a theory that he may have had an accomplice.

Some detectives believe that Sutcliffe either was involved in or knows something about other murders that remain unsolved, and that he may have had an accomplice who also is a murderer.

David Yallop, a writer who has brought out the first book on the case following the trial, called *Deliver Us From Evil*, believes that Sutcliffe is responsible for at least two murders.

Official's remark resented

Sino-Indian rift erupts

PEKING, May 25 (AFP) — Fundamental disagreement between China and India over Southeast Asia resurfaced Monday with a newspaper slanging match just one month before an official visit to New Delhi by Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua.

The *People's Daily* Monday attacked Indian Foreign Secretary Eric Gonsalves for recent statements he made to the Malaysian *New Straits Times* newspaper describing Chinese leaders as "idiots". An official Chinese spokesman announced Monday that Huang's visit, the first by a Chinese foreign minister since the 1962 border war, would begin on June 26.

The *People's Daily* quoted comments on the Indo-Chinese situation in the *Straits Times* attributed to Gonsalves. "The biggest imbeciles are the idiots in Peking," the *People's Daily* reported him as saying. "In my view, these Peking imbeciles are provoking the Soviets to arrive on their southern border, whether they want it or not."

The *People's Daily* countered that India's recognition of the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government last year had been an "idiotic" act.

The newspaper said it was particularly deplorable that Gonsalves should have made "unfriendly remarks" at a time when "the Chinese and Indian governments are exerting efforts to improve their relations". Huang cancelled his first planned visit to India following Indian recognition of the Phnom Penh regime. Gonsalves visited China a few weeks before the Indian recognition.

Kenya blames Marxists for unrest

NAIROBI, May 25 (AFP) — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi has accused "Marxist" lecturers of Nairobi University of using the students to spread anarchy in the country, the Kenya News Agency reported. He said the "so-called Marxists" at the campus and elsewhere had wrecked the lives of students from poor families by using a few misguided elements, particularly students from rich families, to cause chaos.

Moi disclosed that he had stopped some university lecturers from leaving the country after the recent disturbances at the campus that led to its closure. "These lecturers behind the disturbances must stay here and suffer for their hideous acts," he said. "Poor

parents undergo terrible hardship striving to educate their children and yet those agents of Marxism continue disrupting the smooth running of the university to the detriment of those whose cause they claim to champion," Moi added.

The university was closed indefinitely on May 18 following three days of disturbances by students supporting government doctors who have been on strike over pay grievances since May 7. The students were ordered by Education Minister Joseph Kamotho to return to their home districts and report to district administrative officers, tribal chiefs or their nearest police station every Friday and Monday.

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Moscow 'discovers' mass media

MOSCOW, May 25 (AP) — The Soviet Union is putting strong new emphasis on public relations in an apparent effort to improve its image abroad and win favorable publicity for Soviet domestic and foreign policies.

Soviet sources say public relations efforts begun in the past two to five years represent a significant shift in propaganda techniques, aimed at reaching increasingly sophisticated foreign citizens, journalists and politicians.

Soviet spokesmen fluent in English, French and German are appearing more and more on foreign radio and television programs, while experts from Moscow on arms and other policies are being sent abroad for public debates.

Moscow Radio has sharply revamped its foreign broadcasts in recent years to reach wider audiences, and Soviet authorities are hosting increasing numbers of international conferences and festivals on subjects ranging from science to classical music. "The Russians have finally discovered the mass media," a European diplomat based in Moscow said. "They have toned down the old propaganda slogans, and are trying a whole range of new things to make themselves seem more human and more reasonable."

The Soviet news media still rails at "capitalist" plots and "imperialist" warmongering in the West, but Soviet spokesmen are able to talk in less strident terms to selected Western audiences. In 1976, one year after the Helsinki agreements on the free flow of international information, Soviet authorities gave foreign reporters direct access to many Soviet organizations, multiple-entry visas and more travel privileges.

Recent efforts to reach more foreign citizens directly have included new international festivals, including the annual book fair and international music festival in Moscow.

Also, since 1978, the number and quality of press conferences arranged by the Foreign Ministry have improved. Soviet information policies in many fields are still far short of what most Western countries offer. Despite repeated requests by foreign journalists, the Soviet Union has made no move to hold regular daily or weekly briefings in Moscow on foreign affairs or domestic matters.

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Polish debts aftermath

Comecon umbrella theory flops

VIENNA, May 25 (R) — Western bankers seem to have finally lost faith in the Comecon umbrella theory — the belief that the Soviet Union would bail out any other Communist country in debt to the West.

Poland's 15 major Western creditor nations agreed late in April to reschedule about \$2.6 billion of government-backed debt in an eight-year package with a four-year grace period. Interest payments were waived.

aid to Warsaw in this quarter was another clear sign of its reluctance to unfurl its umbrella. One skeptical banker, who said he did not know whether he believed the umbrella theory or not, said Moscow might be promoting or downplaying it as the situation demands.

Finland faces recession, OECD says

PARIS, May 25 (AFP) — Finland, which recently has had higher growth than any other country in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), will soon have a recession and more serious unemployment, an OECD report said Monday.

Financial Roundup
Riyal adjusted against dollar

JEDDAH, May 25 — For the third time in less than two weeks and for the third time this month, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) — has devalued the riyal against the dollar. In a telex circular to local commercial banks, the monetary agency stated that as of Monday May 25 the new dollar — riyal parity selling price has been taken from 3.3800 to 3.3900.

Soaring dollar jolts gold

LONDON, May 25 (R) — The soaring dollar has left gold languishing in its wake, but market experts say there could be some resurgence in the gold price later this year.

over the next decade. South Africa's gold mines will double capital expenditure over the next five years to 7.3 billion rand \$8.8 billion from the amount spent in the preceding 10 years, a sign of faith in the future.

French shares record gains

PARIS, May 25 (AFP) — The Paris bourse led healthier Monday, with French shares an average of 2.2 percent at the close of the day.

also reassured by declarations from West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and President Francois Mitterrand that the franc would be defended.

Sino-Japanese talks fail

PEKING, May 25 (AFP) — The renewed negotiations between China and Japan over their trade dispute have again failed, a diplomatic source said here Monday.

China, however, finds the cost of borrowing in this way too high. It would prefer \$2.6 billion worth long-term credits from the Japanese government. Japan is refusing this.

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Foreign Exchange Rates table with columns for Currency, SAMA, Cash, and Transfer. Lists rates for various currencies including Dollar, Pound, and Yen.

AL-BALAH Trading & Importing Co. and AL-JABR Trading Co. contact information and address details.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom left of the page.

As Bibby corners glory

Phillies trounced by Pirates

NEW YORK, May 25 (AP) — Pitcher Jim Bibby blasted a two-run homer and combined with reliever Victor Cruz on an eight-hitter to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 7-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies Sunday.

drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single in the eighth inning to break a tie and give San Diego a 7-5 victory over Atlanta.

nesota. Ron Lef-Lore's single with the bases loaded and two out in the second inning skipped by California left fielder Brian Downing for a bases-clearing four-run play to pace Chicago to its fourth straight victory, a 10-2 romp over the Angels.

Baseball Standings table with columns for National League East, American League East, and West.

Hope leaves hospital

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, May 25 (R) — Maurice Hope of Great Britain, who was knocked out by Wilfred Benitez and lost his World Boxing Council light middleweight championship Saturday, was discharged from a local hospital Sunday.

The win marks the 22-year-old Benitez, raised in Puerto Rico and now living in New York, only the fifth boxer and the first in 43 years to win professional world championships in three separate weight divisions.



Maurice Hope

Benitez asserts he knows all the tricks

LAS VEGAS, May 25 (AP) — A three-time champion at the tender age of 22, Wilfred Benitez says there is nothing left for him to learn in the sport of boxing.

dominated the rest of the bout. "He gave me a great fight, he had courage all the time. He was the best southpaw I've ever seen."



"PLAY-ON": A British firm has come out with a new ankle and achilles tendon protectors for players. Called the Porita "Play-on" ankle protectors, they are moulded from strong polyethylene to give a flexible and slim product that can be worn over or under normal sports socks.

Hunt goes down to Shariff

TORONTO, Canada, May 25 (AP) — In a battle of the giants Shariff Khan plunked defending champion Geoff Hunt of Australia 15-11, 15-6, 15-12 in the fourth round of the Mennen Cup Invitational Squash Tournament Sunday.

Munro all praise for UK athletes

ANTRIM, Northern Ireland, May 25 (AP) — Britain's Minister of Sport, Hector Munro, Sunday congratulated British Athletes for agreeing to compete in Northern Ireland, contrasting them with the English and Welsh soccer teams that cancelled matches in the British-ruled province because of political troubles here.

Warwickshire scores two-run win

Australians crawl to 232

LONDON, May 25 (Agencies) — The touring Australian cricket team achieved some much-needed batting practice but made few friends in a dull, rain-interrupted match against Somerset at Taunton Sunday.

ive spell of bowling, taking two wickets for 17 runs in 13 overs.

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Arabic title: عرب نيوز (Arab News). Subtitle: صحيفة سعودية يومية تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية (A daily Saudi newspaper published in English).

Shahawi logo featuring a bird and the name 'شاهوي' (Shahawi) in Arabic and 'Shahawi' in English.

Japan government rejects demand to ban U.S. ship entry

TOKYO, May 25 (Agencies) — Japan's government, under strong criticism over national security policies, Monday rejected a parliamentary demand to ban the United States aircraft carrier Midway from returning to its home port on Tokyo Bay. Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda turned down the demand by a Communist parliamentarian as the government faced concerted opposition questioning over its attitudes on defense. "My understanding is that the Midway should be allowed to make the port call as it has in the past," Sonoda said. The 64,000-ton carrier is now on duty in the Indian Ocean but expected back at nearby Yokosuka on June 5 or 6.

Artillery duels reported in Gulf

NICOSIA, May 25 (AP) — Iran and Iraq have reported their forces were dueling with heavy artillery across the Shat Al-Arab waterway near the northern tip of the Gulf. An Iranian joint staff communique charged Sunday that the Iraqis continued the shelling of residential areas of the oil-refining city of Abadan. At the same time, the Iranians shelled an Iraqi army column on the Faw-Basrah road inside Iraqi territory and attacked them in the Abadan-Masahr and Abadan-Kunishahr fronts, killing or wounding 48 Iraqi troops, the communique said.

Body found in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Georgia, May 25 (R) — The naked body of a black man has been found in a river near Atlanta prompting fears that he may be the 28th young black murdered in the area in the past 22 months. Police did not identify the body, discovered Saturday by canoeists in the Chattahoochee River where five other bodies of young blacks have been found. A special task force formed to investigate the killings went to the scene but would not say whether the dead man had been murdered.

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CAPTIVE TERRORIST: One of the gunmen who made a futile attempt to seize Barcelona's Banco Central Sunday being held captive by Spanish anti-terrorist police commandos. The over 70 hostages taken by the gunmen were rescued by the police who ended the siege with a gunfire assault.

Bank assault 3 Spanish rightists arrested

BARCELONA, Spain, May 25 (AP) — Police arrested three right-wing civilians Monday after anti-terrorist police commandos ended the siege of Barcelona's Banco Central with a gunfire assault Sunday that rescued the last of the hostages. The three civilians were identified as extreme rightists, the political group blamed by the government for financing the bank seizure. A police source said a widespread investigation was underway but the motive for the take over remained shrouded in mystery. The action has raised a storm of editorial protest after preliminary official accounts that the gunmen were right-wing financed gangsters or anarchists.

Students march Ex-Polish official commits suicide

WARSAW, May 25 (R) — Former Polish Foreign Trade Minister Jerzy Olszewski has committed suicide, the official news agency PAP said Monday. The agency said it has obtained information about the minister's suicide but that government officials were neither confirming nor denying it. Olszewski, 60 was criticized publicly for his role in leading Poland into its present economic crisis. He was closely associated with ex-party boss Edward Gierek and was appointed deputy head of the planning commission in 1971 shortly after Gierek came to power. He took over the key ministry of Foreign Trade and Maritime Economy in November 1974 but left the post in circumstances which have never been fully explained in December 1979, just eight months before Gierek was toppled. Press reports, quoting foreign trade ministry officials, said the ministry was badly run under Olszewski and that there were cases of fraud.

British soldier killed, 3 injured in IRA ambush

BELFAST, May 25 (Agencies) — A British soldier was killed and three others were wounded Monday in an ambush outside the Londonderry village of Bellaghy, later claimed by the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA). A police source said earlier that bullets were rained on the four soldiers' Land Rover as they patrolled an area only a few miles from the home of Francis Hughes, the third Republican convict to die in an unsuccessful hunger strike campaign to force the British government to grant IRA prisoners political status. An IRA statement said after the ambush that the "active service unit" that was responsible for the ambush had made it "safely to base after the attack." Meanwhile thousands of people waited outside the Maze prison Monday to greet the funeral of his brother Patrick, the fourth hunger striker to die. O'Hara is due out of the Maze in August, after serving five years for theft and illegal possession of firearms. Meanwhile, the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army, allied to the IRA, Sunday threatened "fierce retaliation" for the death of Patrick O'Hara. Within hours of the threat, a policeman was shot and wounded in Belfast. The policeman, a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was on mobile patrol in a police Land Rover when a milk truck pulled up alongside it and two gunmen opened fire.

Over defense policy Bundestag to back Schmidt

BONN, May 25 (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, buoyed by support from U.S. and French leaders, looked sure Monday on weathering a potentially divisive parliamentary test over defense policy. Schmidt returned to Bonn Sunday night strengthened by backing from Reagan and new French President Francois Mitterrand for his stance on NATO's European missile program — currently the big issue in West German politics. In an important gesture for the chancellor, President Reagan vowed after last week's talks that the United States placed equal weight on each track of a 1979 NATO decision calling both for deployment of new U.S. missiles and arms talks with Moscow. Just before the trip Schmidt staked his future on full implementation of the NATO plan, threatening to step down if his Social Democratic Party (SPD) ever took a different line. But as parliamentary parties in the Bundestag (lower house) squared up for a major defense debate Tuesday, Schmidt's latest round of summitry seemed to have paid dividends at home. The NATO program is opposed by SPD leftists who suspect the Reagan administration of using the talks offer only as a cover for securing deployment of the 572 new missiles, more than 200 of them in West Germany. In an effort to flush SPD dissidents out into the open, and split Schmidt's left-liberal coalition, the conservative opposition was tabling a motion stressing parliament's support for the alliance move. But SPD sources predicted the coalition parties would now be able to close ranks behind a rival draft citing Reagan's equal weighty assurance, as well as an earlier U.S. pledge to seek talks with Moscow by the end of the year. Though abstentions by a handful of an estimated 40 left-wing SPD deputies were still possible, commentators generally expected Schmidt to clear the hurdle with ease. A leading leftist, Manfred Cyppl, was quoted in a newspaper interview as saying there was probably majority SPD support for the NATO program. He complained it had become a question of personal loyalty to Schmidt and this made factual discussion "hardly possible." Opposition Christian Democratic leader Helmut Kohl, whose party backs the NATO program, said on television the Washington talks merely confirmed decisions taken at NATO foreign ministers' meeting in Rome early this month. He said the chancellor returned empty-handed, having failed to persuade Reagan to speed up the arms talk timetable. Commentators noted Schmidt also failed to resolve differences over the impact which U.S. interest rates, now at around 20 percent, have had on West European economies. But SPD and government officials argued that a major success of the trip lay in the friendship which the chancellor and Reagan established during their meetings. "Where Schmidt is concerned, the personal relationship is always important," one Bonn source said, recalling the often strained ties between the chancellor and former president Jimmy Carter. Schmidt himself told reporters in Hanover where Lower Saxony state SPD leader Monday reaffirmed the party line on NATO strategy, that the president showed "an astonishing degree" of understanding of European thinking.

Kingdom

Emirates is less optimistic on the ability of this conference to reach an agreement, though he is firm on "no cutback in prices." Oil is so precious that we prefer to close our wells for two years," he told Arab News. While Berti is suggesting a ten percent cut in production, Oteiba thinks that it should be left to individual member states to decide. Saudi Arabia is firm on this issue, which it sees as part of the national sovereignty. Thus it did not commit itself last September to the short lived cut adopted in Vienna. Price freeze could be the outcome of the conference, but the question is whether it will be an outcome of the de facto situation or an agreed upon resolution. The ministers will be discussing a heavy 18-point agenda, including aside from prices and production issues. Then again, as Saudi Arabia is charging the welfare of the region and does not at all aim, directly or indirectly, at harming anyone. It is not a military bloc against any group, nor a political axis against any powers. It is a periodic meeting among brothers striving for the welfare, prosperity and stability of their neighboring and loving peoples as well as for the security of the region. This is their responsibility and that of their peoples who have chosen to safeguard its security, independence and sovereignty, through self-reliance within the framework of an independent Islamic policy that is neither pro-East nor pro-West.

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